

Nelson -

I have reviewed the patents similar to our PM 888 application for a "Device for the Modification of the Rate of Delivery of Tobacco Smoke Components". US Patent 4,033,361 (July 5, 1977) states in line 21 that previously adsorbed materials can be released thermally. This is similar to our claim, except the release does not necessarily require thermal input. We have good evidence³ that the partitioning of a material between a moving air stream and a weak adsorbent can provide for a transient retention of the material on the adsorbent. This is the unique claim we are making; namely that a substance like ethylene which is generally not considered to be retained by carbon can be held transiently and thereby result in an altered rate of delivery. None of the patents you have located appear to address this problem.

Clearly an important point in preparing the patent application is the use of a universally accepted filter material such as carbon. My question is can a unique property of the carbon - the transient adsorption of ethylene - be used as the basis for a patent. We have extended this work to isoprene - carbon interactions and if necessary could explore additional gases and/or filter materials.

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I expect to be back in Richmond the week of June 15th and if you feel it would be useful to discuss the patent further please call Gunars and leave a message. If you need to reach me here my phone # is 415-497-1960 or 415-497-1745.

Thanks for your help on the application.

Gary Foster

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